

Serial No.: 10/728,454
Examiner: Simon King

REMARKS

In a January 5, 2010 non-final office action, Examiner rejected claims 10 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and all pending claims (claims 1-10, 12-19 and 27-30 with claim 1 being the only independent claim) under 35 U.S.C. 102, citing United States Patent Publication Number 20030216143 ("Roese").

In an effort to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 112 rejection, Applicant has amended "initialization thereof" to read "initialization of the switching device" in claim 10. In addition, Applicant has amended "at least one of the one or more devices" to read "at least one of the one or more Voice-over-IP devices" in claim 16.

The present invention as recited in independent claim 1 relates to automatically sending a Voice-over-IP device identification message from the one or more Voice-over-IP devices to a node when the one or more Voice-over-IP devices is operably coupled to the node; automatically responding with a device identification acknowledgement message from the node to the one or more Voice-over-IP devices, the device identification acknowledgement message comprising one or more system attributes, including connectivity information; conveying the connectivity information from the one or more Voice-over-IP devices to a private branch exchange system that maintains a relation database; and associating the connectivity information at the relation database with a geographic location of the one or more Voice-over-IP devices.

The system attributes as detailed in the present application may include the VLAN identification of a VoIP VLAN assigned in the network and the switching device (node) identification, slot number and port number to which the Voice-over-IP device is connected. The

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identification, slot number and port number may be communicated to the PBX where they are used to relate the physical location of the port connection with the Voice-over-IP device to which it is connected. Connectivity information generally includes the switching device identification as well as the port identification, including slot number and port number on which the IP phone connects to the switching device. The IP PBX includes an external relational database having one or more tables that associate the switch, slot and port numbers with known geographic distribution of the nodes of the network.

The present invention overcomes shortcomings in the prior art related to having to manually configure the VID (VLAN identification) in each Voice-over-IP phone either directly or through a network management tool when it is connected to a switching device. The current prior art also uses an external database consulted by the PBX to determine the physical location of the Voice-over-IP device placing a call. The location information in the external database must be manually entered and is inaccurate when a Voice-over-IP device is moved to a new location in the network until updated.

The cited prior art discloses a system that associates physical locations with network-linked devices in a network. A device can determine its own position and relay that information to applications within the network at start-up, upon connection or when queried or the system can determine the location of the device and store that information and give it to the device if appropriate. The methodology of the cited prior art involves receiving connection information at a first device from a neighboring network device and determining physical location of the first device based on the connection information. The method may include transmitting the physical

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location of the first device from the neighboring network device to the first device. A location module can also be configured to determine a physical location of a connection point and to transmit the physical location to a client device in communication with the connection point.

Applicant respectfully asserts that the invention as claimed in currently amended claim 1 is not disclosed in Roesse. The disclosure of Roesse does not show a PBX that maintains an external relation database. In Roesse, the location server maintains the relation database. Claim 1 has been amended to include a limitation related to the external relation database.

In addition, the present invention involves a VLAN identification (not just physical location information) being transmitted from a switching device (not a location server) to the IP phone along with connectivity information which includes the switching device identification as well as the port identification, including slot number and port number on which the IP phone connects to the switching device. In the present invention, a VDI acknowledgement message informs the Voice-over-IP device of the VLAN configuration in the switching device for VoIP traffic. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the VID as a system attribute. In addition, claim 2 has been amended to require a direct connection between the Voice-over-IP device and the node/switching device which also is not shown in Roesse.

Regarding claims 2-10, 12-19, and 27-30, as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1, and therefore incorporate all the limitations therein, for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims are also patentable over the cited reference.

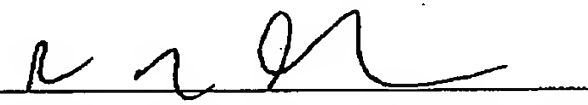
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CONCLUSION

It is believed that the foregoing places the application in condition for allowance; therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of the claims as set forth in the most recent office action, and full allowance of same. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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